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Secretary General Feridun H. Sinirlioglu's Speech

Thank you, Mr. Chair, thank you Madame Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address this joint meeting. Ahead of today's Security Dialogue, I wanted to set out my thoughts on the role of the Forum for Security Cooperation at a moment of profound instability across the OSCE region.

First, let me thank the French Chairpersonship. Ambassador, dear Fatène you and your team have assumed leadership of the FSC at an important moment. The themes for your Security Dialogues are all deeply relevant to the current security environment. They should resonate with all participating States. I wish you and your successors as Chair this year, Georgia and the United Kingdom, every success.

Second, this work matters today more than ever. There is a war in the middle of our geography, and it should end with a just and viable peace as soon as possible. The ongoing war and intense geopolitical division means the world has entered a new arms race. Military defence spending is rising. Instability is increasingly addressed by deterrence alone. But history tells us that this trend is unsustainable and risks unintended escalation. Strategic stability has always rested on a balance.

Alongside deterrence, consistent communication and dialogue keep us safe. Transparency regarding military exercises, open military-military communications channels, and arms control agreements are *sine qua non* for comprehensive security for all.

It was acknowledgement of this reality that compelled the CSCE's founders to come together 51 years ago. 35 countries encompassing two competing nuclear alliances recognised that stability demanded dialogue. That spirit of dialogue paved the way for historic advances on arms control in the 1980s and 90s.

But risks are rising again today. Strategic delivery systems are becoming ever more sophisticated. Other strategic capabilities (AI, quantum computing, bioweapons) could potentially offer similar destructive potential.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We live in a world almost without functioning arms control agreements. Which brings me to my third point. We need your imagination for an effective multilateral diplomacy to revitalize the FSC's tools, including modernization and more systematic use of the Vienna Document, and the application of other confidence and security building measures, like the Code of Conduct of Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

This Forum is unique. The only place where all relevant actors sit at the table to discuss current and future arms control mechanisms and hard security challenges in the OSCE region. Let us dedicate our collective efforts to making this Forum work.

The FSC has been used down the years to reduce risk, to yield effective information exchange on military exercises, and to deliver substantial increases in our security. All of this has provided a form of psychological deterrence - reassurance for all of you that we have measures in place to increase transparency, enhance confidence and rebuild trust. In the past, we have described our geography as a common security space. This space today is a shambles.

We need to reconstruct it, and this responsibility falls on us. The FSC can – and must – fully serve its core purpose again soon.

Thank you.